ARTICLES

OF

INQUIRY,

Exhibited to, and to be anſwered by

The Churchwardens and Sidemen

WITHIN THE

DIOCESE of CHESTER,

AT THE

PRIMARY VISITATION

OF

The Right Reverend Father in GOD,

BEILBY,

Lord Biſhop of CHESTER,

In the Year of our Lord, 1778.

CHESTER: Printed by READ and HUXLEY.

Advertiſement.

THE Parſon, Vicar, or Curate of every Pariſh, and the Churchwardens, are to meet together, and read over theſe Articles, to deliberate ſeriouſly about them, and to prepare proper Anſwers to them. And when they have duly conſidered them, the Churchwardens are to write their Anſwer or Preſentment (with the Names of all Offenders) unto every particular Article diſtinctly and truly, according to their Conſciences: And the ſame ſo written, they are to bring to the Viſitation, and to deliver up under their Hands, and upon their Oaths, directed to the Lord Biſhop of CHESTER, *his Vicar General, or other Judge competent.*

The New Churchwardens OATH.

YOU do ſwear, That you will well and truly execute the Office of Churchwarden for the Year enſuing, in the Pariſh where you are choſen; and that you will preſent all ſuch Perſons and Things, as are preſentable by the Laws of this Realm, according to the beſt of your Skill and Knowledge.

So help you God.

The Old Churchwardens OATH.

YOU do ſwear, That you will true Preſentment make of all ſuch Perſons and Things, as are preſentable by the Laws of this Realm, according to the beſt of your Skill and Knowledge.

So help you God.

TITLE I.

Concerning CHURCHES, *and the* Things *appertaining thereunto.*

I. IS your Church or Chapel in good and ſufficient Repair, as to the Roof, Windows, Floor, and Seats? And are all Things in it kept in ſuch decent Sort as becometh the Houſe of God?

II. Is your Church-Yard well and ſufficiently fenced and maintained with Walls, Rails, or Pales, as hath been accuſtomed? Have any Incroachments been thereon, by Building or otherwiſe?

III. Have you a Font for Baptiſm, ſet in the uſual Place? Have you a decent Communion Table, covered in Time of Divine Service with a Carpet, and when the Lord's Supper is adminiſtred, with a fair Linen Cloth? Have you a Paten, Chalice, and Flagon for the Bread and Wine, and a decent Baſon to receive the Alms of the Communicants? And are all theſe kept wholly for theſe ſacred Uſes, and never employed to any other?

IV. Have you a commodious Reading Deſk and Pulpit, with a ſuitable Cloth and Cuſhion, conveniently placed for reading and hearing the Prayers and Sermon? Have you a decent Surplice for the Miniſter? Have you a large Bible of the laſt Tranſlation; and two Books of Common-Prayer, one for the Miniſter, and another for the Clerk; and alſo the Book of Homilies, and a Table of the Degrees prohibited in Marriage, publickly ſet up in your Church?

V. Have you a Parchment Regiſter for the Chriſtenings, Marriages, and Burials in your Pariſh; and a Book to enter the Names of all ſtrange Preachers?

VI. Have any Legacies or Benefactions been left to your Pariſh, towards the repairing and maintaining your Church, or to any other pious and charitable Uſe? And are they duly applied, according to the Intent of the Donor?

VII. Are your Church Rates regularly made, confirmed, and gathered, as often as needful, for Repairs of the Church, and for other Things thereto belonging?

Concerning the LIVING, *and the Miniſter's* HOUSE.

I. HAVE you a perfect Terrier, and an Account of all the Glebe Lands, Houſes and Edifices, Orchards, Gardens, Tithes, Penſions, Salaries, Stipendiary Payments, Offerings, and all other Eccleſiaſtical Dues belonging to the Rectory, Vicarage, or Curacy? Is ſuch Terrier or Account ſafely kept? And have true Copies thereof been tranſmitted to the Biſhop's Regiſtry, atteſted by the Miniſter, Churchwardens, and other chief of the Pariſhioners? If there be none ſuch, let one be now carefully made and returned at this Viſitation.

II. Have any Augmentations been made to your Vicarage or Curacy? And has the Leaſe, Grant, or Subſtance of Agreement, whereby ſuch Augmentation hath been made, been returned to the Biſhop's Regiſtry, to be fairly entered for a Memorial of it to Perpetuity?

III. Is your Parſonage or Vicarage Houſe in good and ſufficient Repair? Are the Out-Houſes, Barns, Gardens and Orchards thereto belonging, kept up and preſerved? And have any Alterations been made thereupon without Licence of the Ordinary?

TITLE III.

Concerning the CLERGY.

I. DOES your Miniſter reſide upon his Living, as by Law he is obliged? And doth he, in the Time of his Abſence allowed by Law, take Care that the Cure be duly ſupplied?

II. Is he a Perſon of virtuous and exemplary Life and Converſation? Is he grave and decent in his Apparel, wearing only ſuch as is the uſual Habit of Clergymen?

III. Doth he conſtantly preach, or provide that one Sermon, at leaſt, be preached ever *Sunday* in the Pariſh? And doth he, in his Prayer before Sermon, give the King and Royal Family their proper Titles, as preſcribed by the 55th Canon?

IV. Doth he diſtinctly and reverently read the Prayers of the Church every Morning and Evening on *Sundays*, and other Days, according

according to the Rubrick of the Book of Common-Prayer, without Omiſſion or Alteration?

V. Doth he adminiſter the Holy Communion at leaſt three Times in the Year, whereof *Eaſter* is one? Doth he give ſolemn Notice the *Sunday* before in the Church, when the Sacrament is to be adminiſtered?

VI. Is he diligent in the Duty of his Office, to viſit the Sick, bury the Dead, convert Papiſts, and to adminiſter the Sacrament of Baptiſm according to the Rubrick?

VII. Doth he inſtruct the Youth in the Church Catechiſm, and prepare them to be confirmed by the Biſhop?

VIII. Doth he obſerve the Holy-Days and Faſting-Days appointed by the Government, and read the proper Services as they are eſpecially directed? And doth he duly read the occaſional Prayers, Acts of Parliament, Proclamations, &c. appointed by lawful Authority to be read in Churches?

IX. Doth he take Care that all Marriages, Chriſtenings, and Burials be duly entered into the Pariſh Regiſtry, in order to be tranſmitted yearly into the Regiſtry of the Biſhop?

X. Have you a Curate in your Pariſh? Is he a Man of a virtuous and ſober Life? Is he licenſed by the Ordinary to ſerve the Cure? Has he a competent Salary in Proportion to the Value of your Miniſter's Preferment? Is he diligent and careful in the Diſcharge of his Duty?

XI. Have you any Lecturer in your Pariſh? Is he approved and licenſed according to the Act of Uniformity?

TITLE IV.

Concerning the PARISHIONERS.

I. ARE there any in your Pariſh, who lie under a common Fame or vehement Suſpicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Inceſt?

II. Are there in your Pariſh, any common Swearers or Drunkards? or open and notorious evil Livers in other Reſpects?

III. Are there any, who keep publick Houſes, that ſuffer Perſons to tipple in their Houſes; who keep open Shops, or follow their Callings and ordinary Labour, on *Sundays?*

IV. Are

IV. Are there any in your Pariſh, who refuſe to pay their Dues and accuſtomed Offerings to the Miniſter, their Church Rates, and accuſtomed Fees to the Clerk or Sexton?

V. Do the Pariſhioners behave themſelves decently during the Time of Divine Service? Is there any Strife or Contention among them for their Seats or Pews? Has any Body erected a Seat or Pew in the Church, without the Licence of the Biſhop or Ordinary?

TITLE V.

Concerning PARISH *and* CHURCH OFFICERS.

I. ARE your Churchwardens yearly choſen by the joint Conſent of your Miniſter and Pariſhioners, or one of them by the Miniſter, and the other by the Pariſhioners?

II. Do they make their Rates, and give up their Accounts regularly?

III. Are they careful to ſee that no Perſon diſturb Divine Service?

IV. Do they provide againſt every Communion appointed in the Church or Chapel, a ſufficient Quantity of fine White Bread, and good Wine, at the Charge of the Pariſh? And do they attend at the Communion to receive the Alms of the Comunicants, and aſſiſt the Miniſter in the diſtributing thereof amongſt the Poor of the Pariſh?

V. Have you a Pariſh Clerk, of the Age of Twenty Years at leaſt, and duly licenſed by the Ordinary, of honeſt Life and Converſation, and qualified for the Diſcharge of his Office in Reading, Writing, and Singing? Are his Wages duly paid unto him? Or who with-holds them from him?

VI. Doth he or your Sexton do their Duty in keeping the Church clean and decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells, and attending Divine Service, Marriages, Chriſtenings, and Funerals?

TITLE VI.

Concerning HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, SCHOOL-MASTERS, PHYSICIANS, &c.

I. ARE there any Hoſpitals or Alms-Houſes within your Pariſh? And are the Revenues belonging to them applied according to the Intent of the Founder?

II. Is

II. Is there any School, publick or private within your Pariſh? Is there any fixed or ſettled Endowment belonging to it? What is the Value thereof? And how is it applied?

III. Are ſuch Schools taught by the Curate of your Pariſh? Or by any other Perſon?

IV. Is the School-Maſter regularly licenſed by the Biſhop or Ordinary?

V. Is he a Man of ſober and honeſt Converſation, diligent and careful in the Duty of his Place? Doth he teach the Scholars the Church Catechiſm? Doth he cauſe them to come to Church on Sundays and Holidays, and ſee that they behave themſelves quietly and decently there?

VI. Do any in your Pariſh practiſe Phyſick, Surgery, or Midwifery, without Licence from the Ordinary?

TITLE VII.

Concerning Eccleſiaſtical Court Officers.

I. DOTH the Chancellor ſubſtitute any Perſon in his Abſence to keep Courts for him, who is not either a grave beneficed Man near the Place where the Courts are kept, or a Batchelor of Law, or a Maſter of Arts at the leaſt?

II. Do you know, or have you heard of any Payment, Compoſition, or Promiſe made to any Eccleſiaſtical Officer, for conniving at any Fault committed? Hath the Regiſter received any Reward in any Cauſe whatſoever, in Favour of any Party? Or hath he been of Counſel directly or indirectly, with either of the Parties in Suit?

III Hath any Regiſter, or any other Eccleſiaſtical Officer, or any Clerk under them, exacted or taken extraordinary, or greater Fees than thoſe contained in the Table of Fees for that Purpoſe made?

IV. What Money hath been given for Commutation of Penance? By whom? To whom? For what Offence? How hath it been employed?

V. Hath any Officer of the Eccleſiaſtical Court ſuppreſſed or delayed the Proſecution of Perſons duly preſented by the Miniſter, Churchwardens, or Chapelwardens?

VI. Are

VI. Are the Articles of Viſitation, the Offices of publick Prayer on ſpecial Occaſions, Mandates or Injunctions, iſſued out by lawful Authority, delivered to you by the Apparitor, or his Subſtitutes, in due Time?

VII. What Fees or Rewards have they, or any of them taken for the Delivery thereof? —— Let theſe, and all other Abuſes and Offences which any Officer belonging to the Eccleſiaſtical Courts is chargeable with, be carefully preſented to the Biſhop.

Directions to be obſerved by the Clergy and Ch. Wardens in this

VISITATION.

THE Clergy are deſired to be ready with their Exhibits to deliver them in as they are called over before the Biſhop.

The Rectors and Vicars are to exhibit their Inſtitutions, and Deacons and Prieſts Orders; and alſo any Licences or Diſpenſations they have, relating to their Benefices.

The Curates and Lecturers are to exhibit their Licences or Admiſſions, and alſo their Deacons and Prieſts Orders.

The Pariſh Clerks and Schoolmaſters are to exhibit their Licences.

And whereas the leaving the ſeveral Inſtruments to be exhibited by the Clergy with the Regiſter before Court, will greatly tend to their Diſpatch; the Clergy are deſired to give ſuch Inſtruments to the Regiſter as early in the Morning of the Viſitation Day as they can with convenience.

The Ch. Wardens are to give in a Terrier, ingroſſed upon Parchment containing an Account of all the Glebe-Lands, Tythes, Stipendiary Payments, and all other Eccleſiaſtical Dues and Profits whatſoever, belonging to the Rectory, Vicarage, or Curacy, ſigned by the Miniſter, Ch. Wardens, and four at leaſt of the principal Inhabitants.

Alſo to exhibit a Preſentment ſigned by the Old Ch. Wardens; and alſo to give in a Paper containing the Names of the New Ch. Wardens, who are to be ſworn into Office.

As it is of the utmoſt Importance that the Regiſters of Marriages, Births, and Burials in each Pariſh ſhould be accurately kept, without which they cannot have their due Weight in Point of Evidence; and as great Inconveniencies have actually ariſen from want of proper Care in this Reſpect, it is my Requeſt, that for the Future, the following Form may be purſued,

A true and perfect Copy of the Pariſh Regiſtry of A. *from the Day of* 1776, *to the Day of* 1777.

MARRIAGES.

When Married.		Names of Perſons Married		The Man's Profeſſion	Title	Age.	Banns or Licence.	By whom Married	In whoſe Preſence Married	
177		A.	B.		Bat.	21		G. H.	J.	K.
January	2									
No.		C.	D.		Spr.	24		Rector.	L.	M.

BIRTHS and BAPTISMS.

Child's Name.		Father's Name, Abode, Profeſſion, and Deſcent.	Mother's Name, and Deſcent.	Born.	Baptized.
A.	B.	C. D. of E. Eſq; Son of F. G. of H. I. Eſq; by L. his Wife, Dau. of M. W. of O. Gent.	P. Daughter of R. S. of I. Eſq; by W. Daughter of A. B. of C. Eſq;	On *Tueſday* the 2d. of *March*.	On *Tueſday* the 9th. of *March*.

DEATHS and BURIALS.

Perſon's Names.		Abode.	Deſcent, Profeſſion, and Abode.	Died.	Buried.	Where.	Age.	Diſtemper.
A.	B.	C.	Eldeſt Son of D. E. of F. Eſq; by G. D. H. I. of K. Gentleman.	2d. of *March*.	5th. of *March*.	In the Chanc.	30	Conſumption.

DIRECTIONS

To the Reverend

The CLERGY of the Dioceſe of CHESTER,

AND

The CH. WARDENS of the ſame,

FOR

Making and diſpoſing their TERRIERS.

LET there be two original Inſtruments, fairly written on Parchment with durable Ink, containing the ſame Words, and ſigned by the ſame Perſons.

Let them be ſigned by the Miniſter and Church-Wardens, and likewiſe by as many as may be of the ſubſtantial Inhabitants of the Pariſh.

Let one of them be delivered to my Regiſter at my Viſitation. Let the other be affixed to the Pariſh Regiſter-Book, or kept with it.

In the TERRIER.

1. Deſcribe the Parſonage or Vicarage-Houſe; expreſs what Materials it is built and covered with; how many Rooms it contains, and in what Manner they are floored, wainſcotted, and cieled, or that they are not. Add the Outhouſes and the Dimenſions of each, and what they are built and covered with.

2. Set forth the Glebe; the other Houſes, if any upon it; the Quantity of Ground in the whole; the Abuttals or Boundaries of each Parcel; what incloſed, and what in common Fields, and how many Acres of Land in each Incloſure, or lying together in the ſaid Fields, with the Diſtinction, throughout, of Orchard, Meadow, Paſture, Arable, Woods, Under-Woods, *&c.* and add an Article of the Right of Commoning, if any; how many Beaſts, Sheep, *&c.* it extends to? more particularly ſet down the Quantity and Diviſions

ſions of the Gardens, Yards, and Outlets, and the Nature of their ſeveral Fences, whether Walls or otherwiſe. Laſtly, particularize any Number and Value of Timber or other Trees growing on the Church-Yard or any Part of the Glebe.

3. Set down what Tithes are due to the Miniſter, and from what Townſhip; and ſignify whether any Modus be claimed for any, and which of them, and upon what Grounds.

4. Specify all Penſions, Augmentations, Gifts, or Bequeſts, made to the Church or Chapel, and their Miniſters; and annex atteſted Copies (if practicable) of the Deeds, Wills, or Clauſes by which they are given or ſettled. On the other Hand, ſay if any Penſion be payable out of the Living, and to whom; or Stipend or Allowance to the Miniſter of a Chapel; or Cuſtom eſtabliſhed to the Expence or Charge of the Incumbent, by Diſtribution, Entertainment, or otherwiſe.

5. The Curates of Churches impropriate, and of Chapels that have Tithes or Portions of Tithes, muſt particularize the Lands or other Things titheable to them; adding (as before directed) the Penſions, Stipends, or other Maintenance, if any, and by whom payable.

6. Set forth the Furniture of the Church or Chapel, and Chancel; the Bells, Clock, Utenſils, particularly the Communion Plate, with the Inſcription upon it and Weight, if marked thereupon; together with a Catalogue of the Books which have been left, or belong to the Church, Pariſh, or Chapel.

7. Lands, or Money in Stock, for Repair of the Church, Chapel, or Utenſils; Writings concerning the ſame, and in whoſe Cuſtody.

8. Who are charged with the Repair of the Edifices, and Church-Yard Fence.

9. The Clerk's and Sexton's Wages, by Cuſtom or otherwiſe; by whom paid; and who appoints them.

N. B. I earneſtly recommend to you that the TERRIERS be made as carefully and as accurately as poſſible.

B. CHESTER.

FINIS.